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James

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(54) **BRACELET AND PENDANT**

(76) Inventor: **Tommy J James**, 1806 Bailey Ave.,
Wilmington, NC (US) 28411

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See application file for complete search history.

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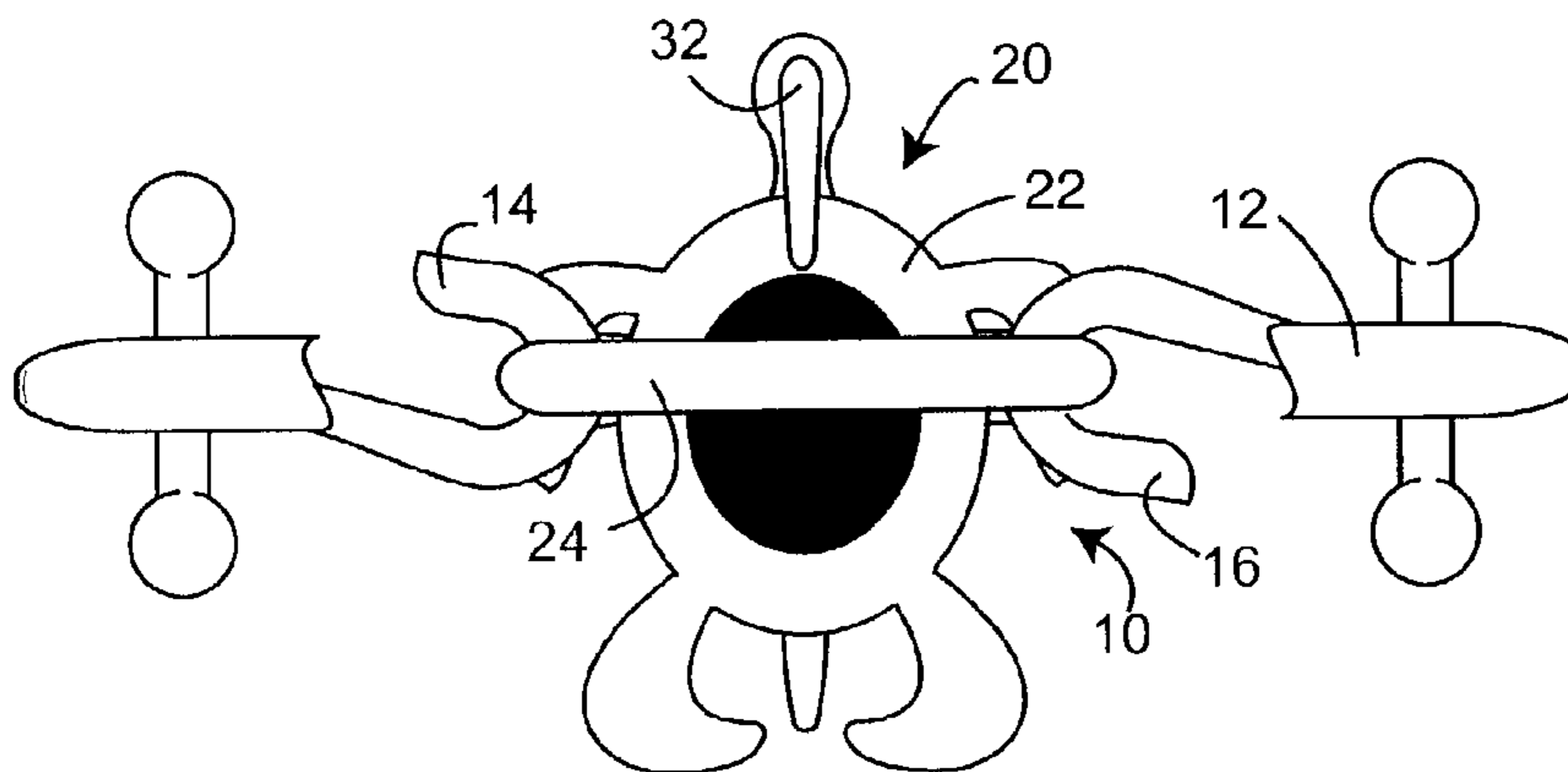
Primary Examiner—Jack W. Lavinder

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—MacCord Mason PLLC

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A bracelet has a removable ornament that can also be worn as a necklace pendant. The bracelet includes a resilient wristband with opposed first and second ends with hooks at each end. The hooks are preferably transverse to the plane of the wristband and extend in opposite directions. The ornament has a bottom surface that includes a first loop adapted to receive the wristband hooks for releasable attachment of the ornament to the wristband, and a second loop to receive a necklace. The first loop preferably includes a central section substantially parallel to the ornament bottom surface and end sections connecting the central section to the ornament bottom surface. The second loop is preferably transverse to the first loop and lies along an axis substantially equidistant between the end sections of the first loop.

13 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

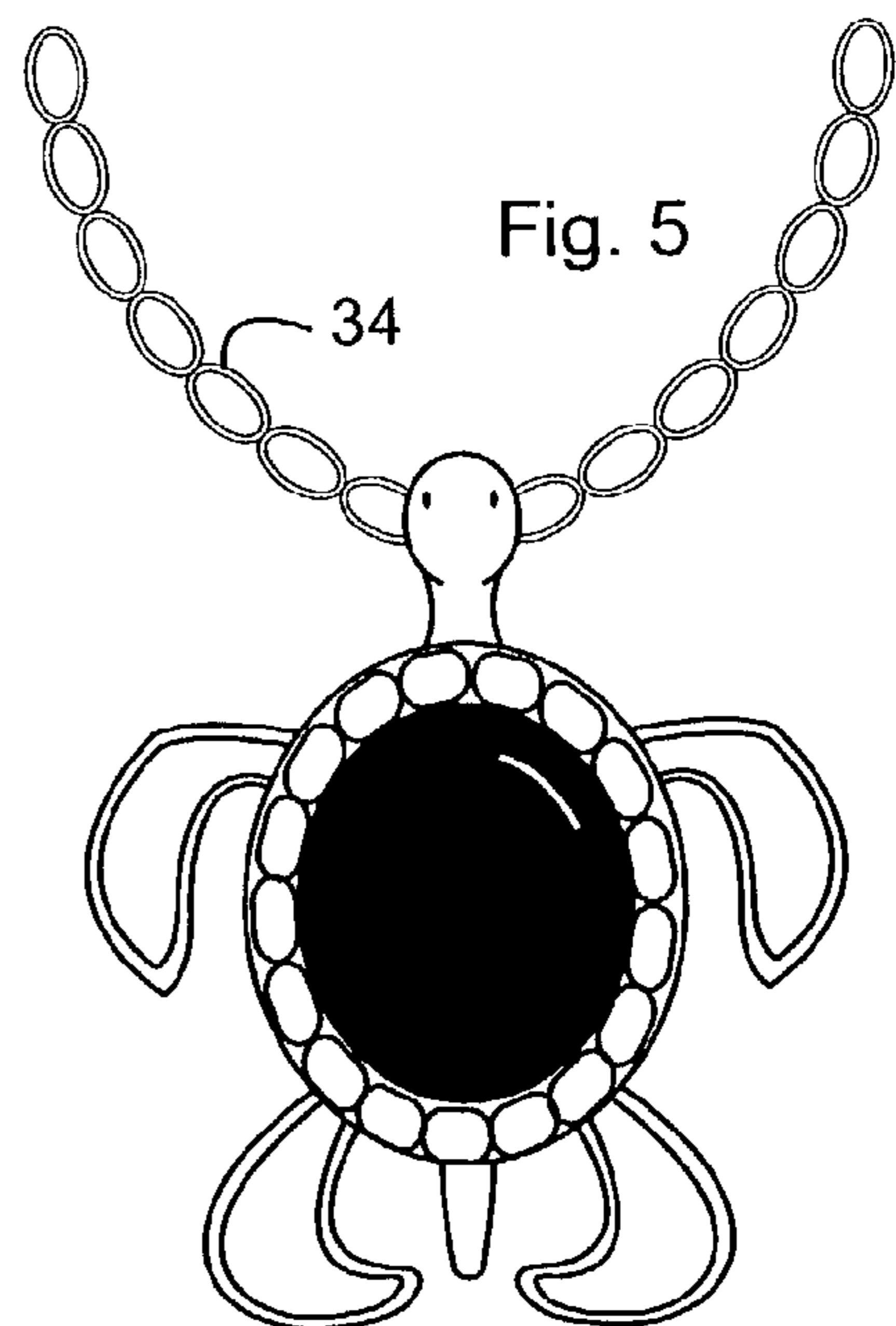
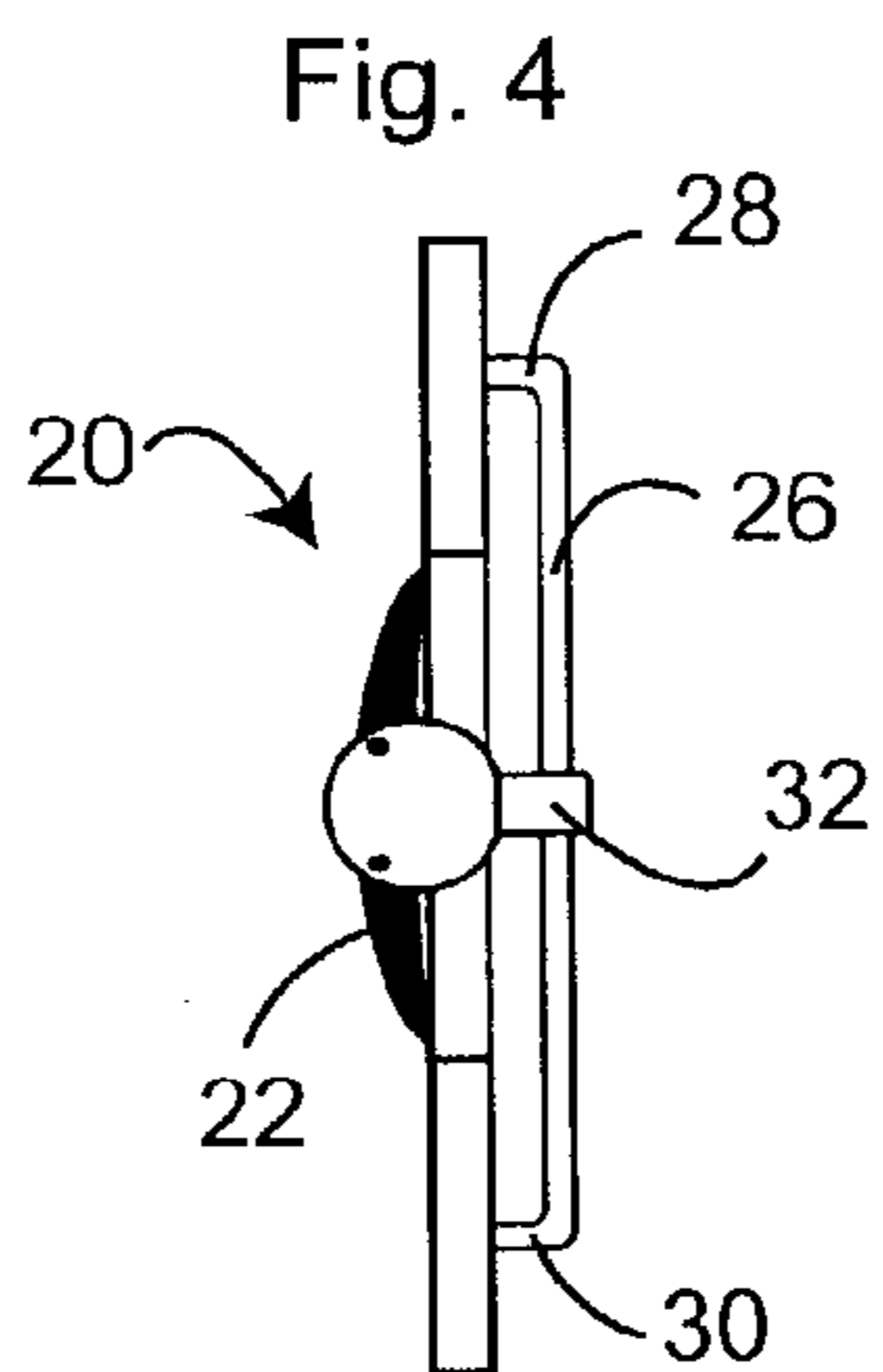
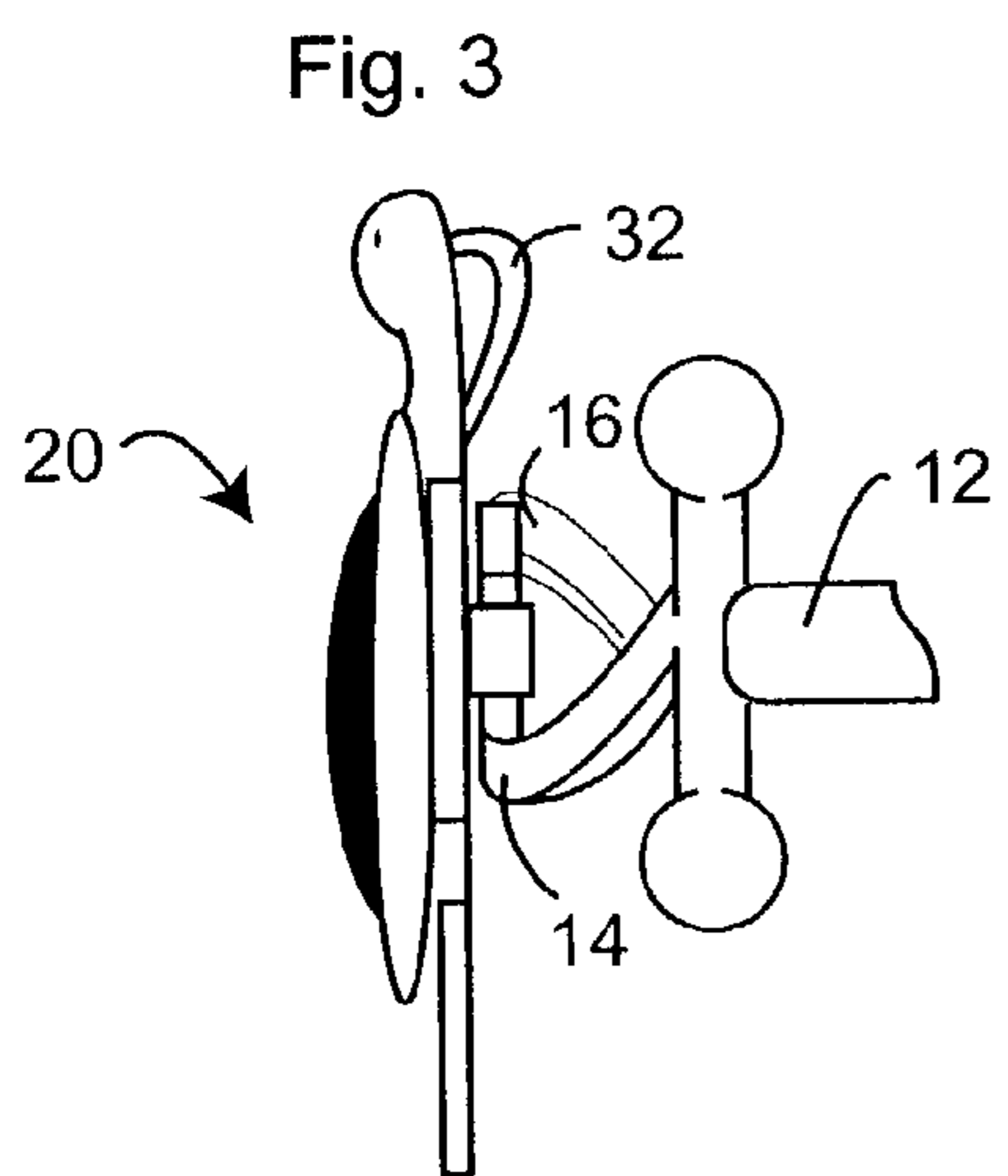
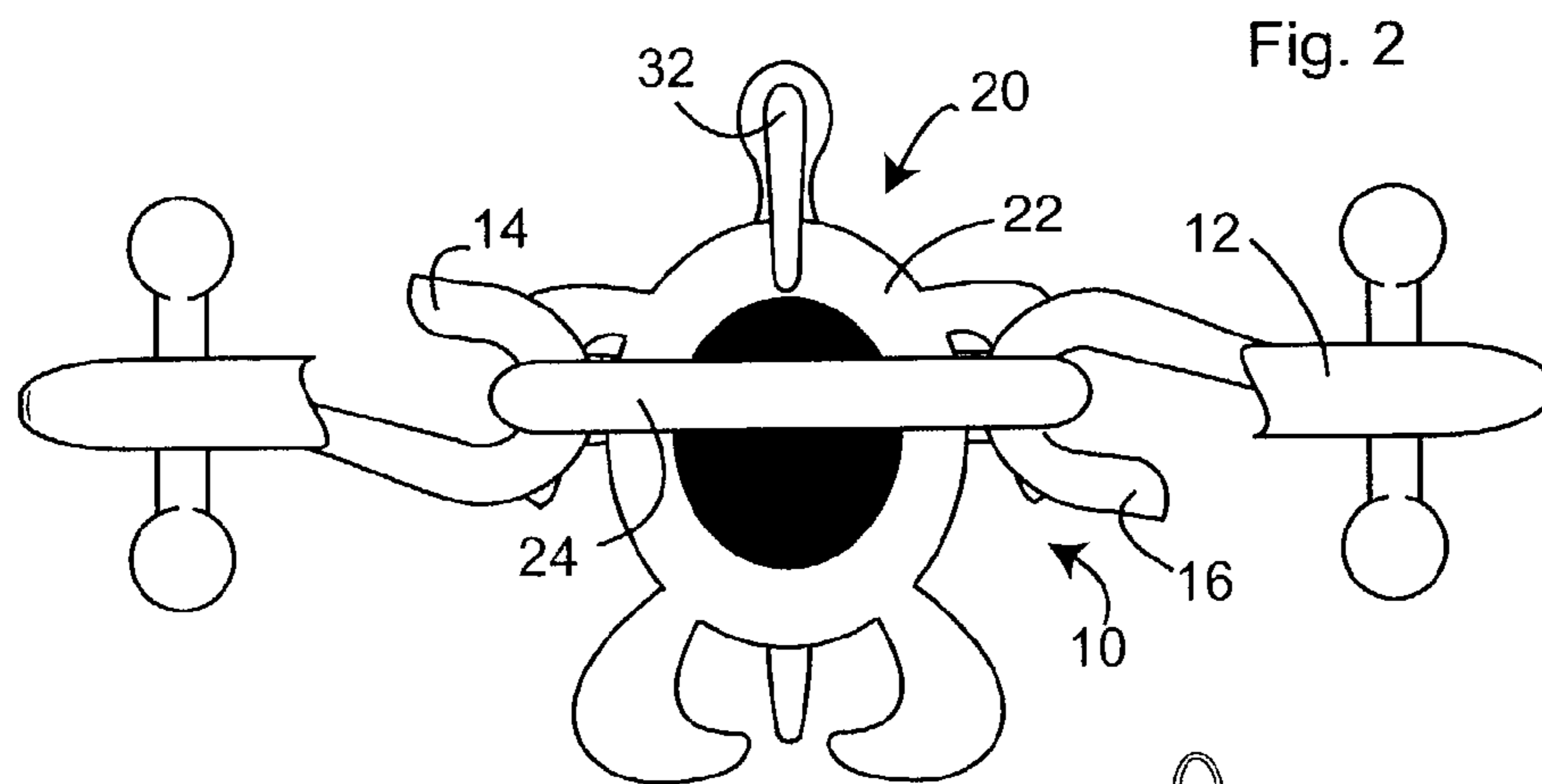
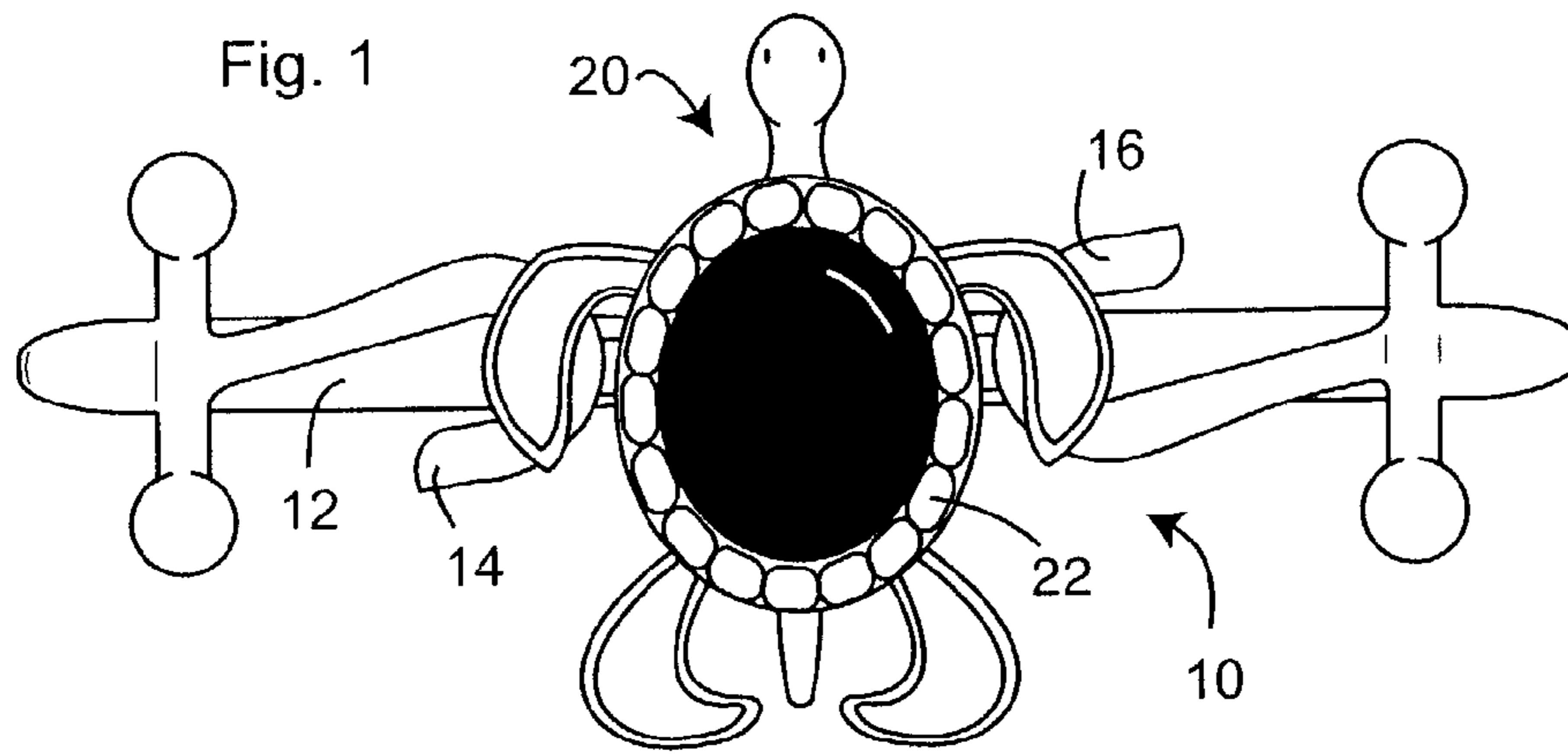


US 7,096,690 B2

Page 2

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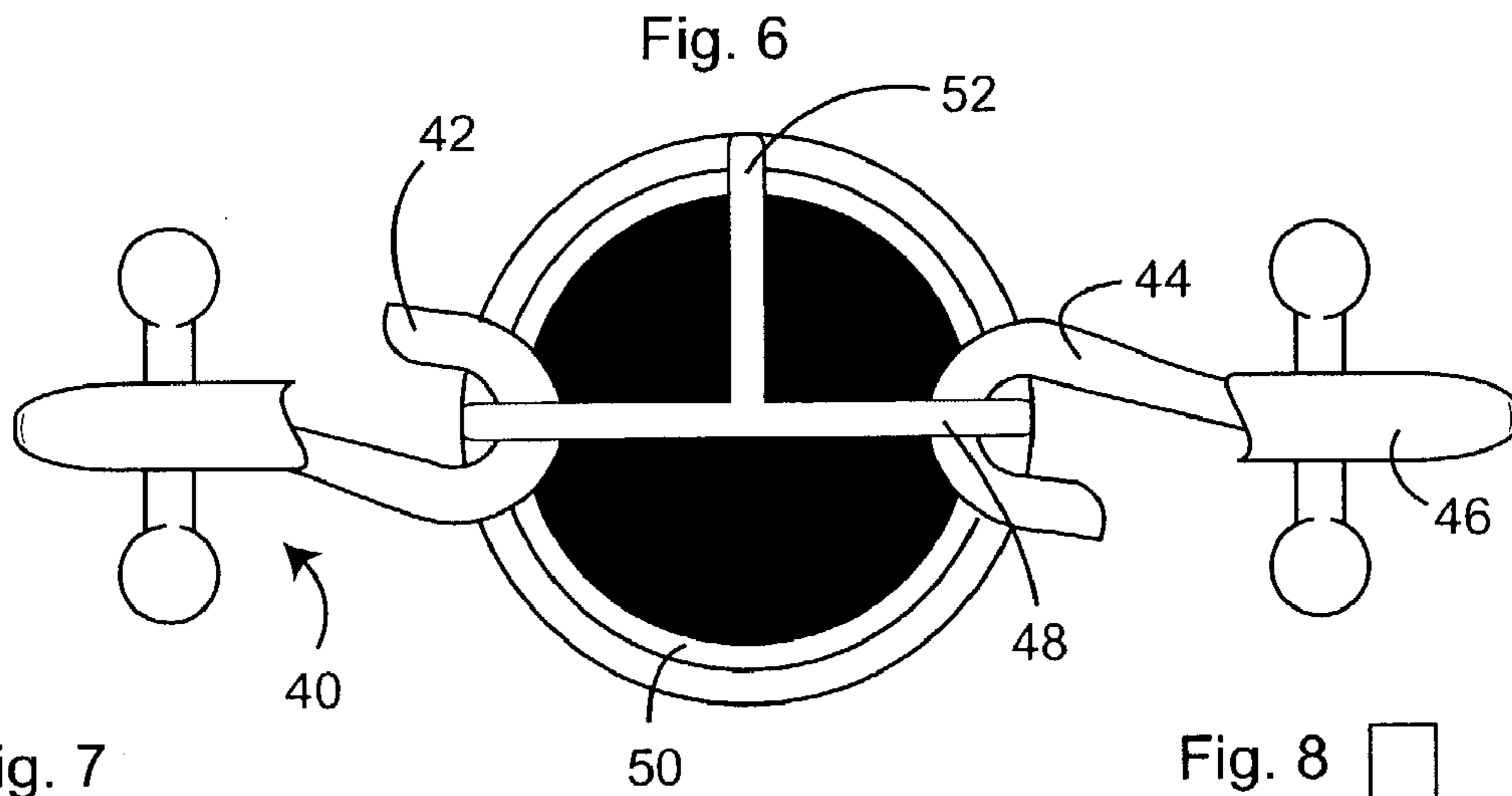


Fig. 7

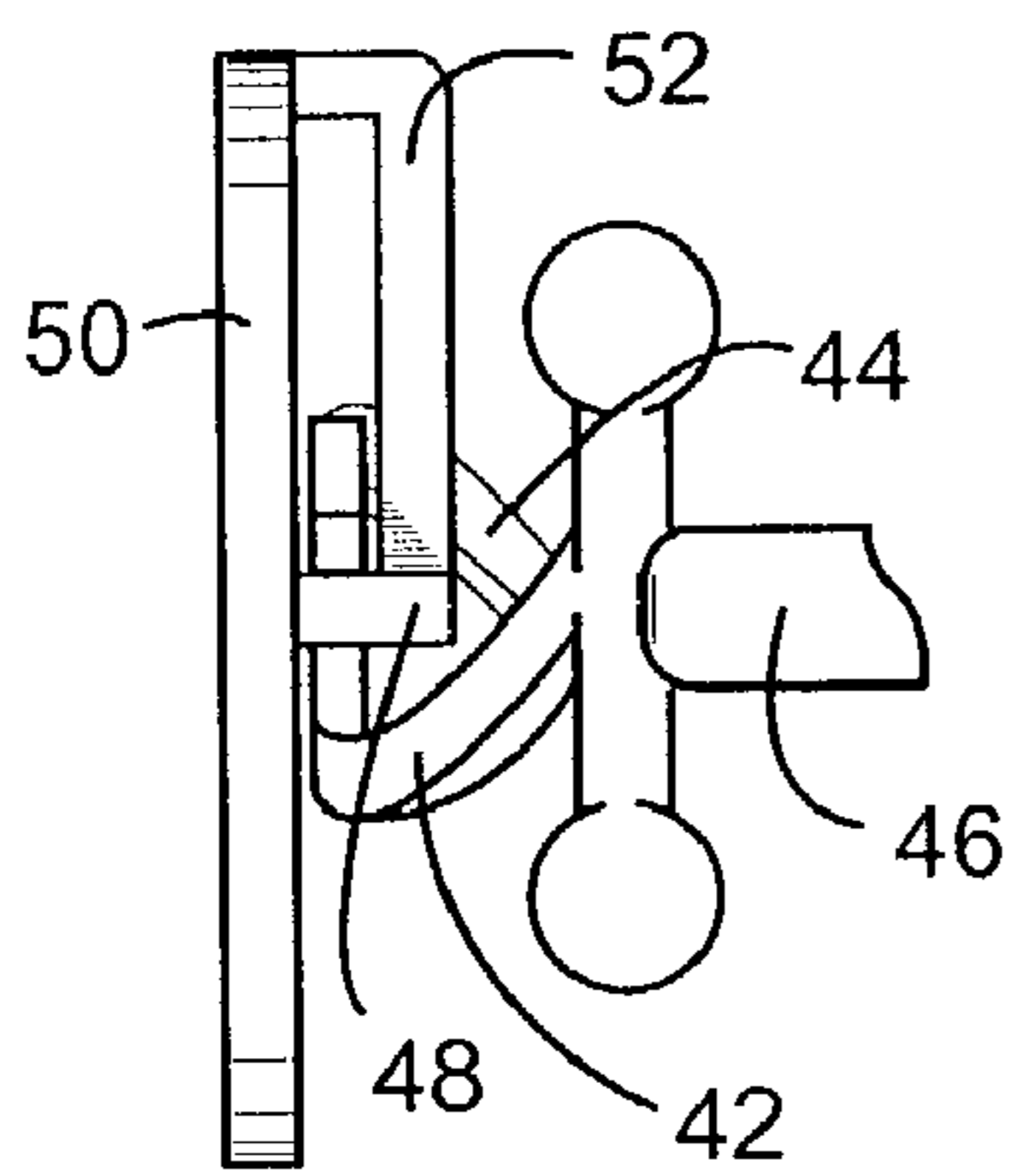


Fig. 8

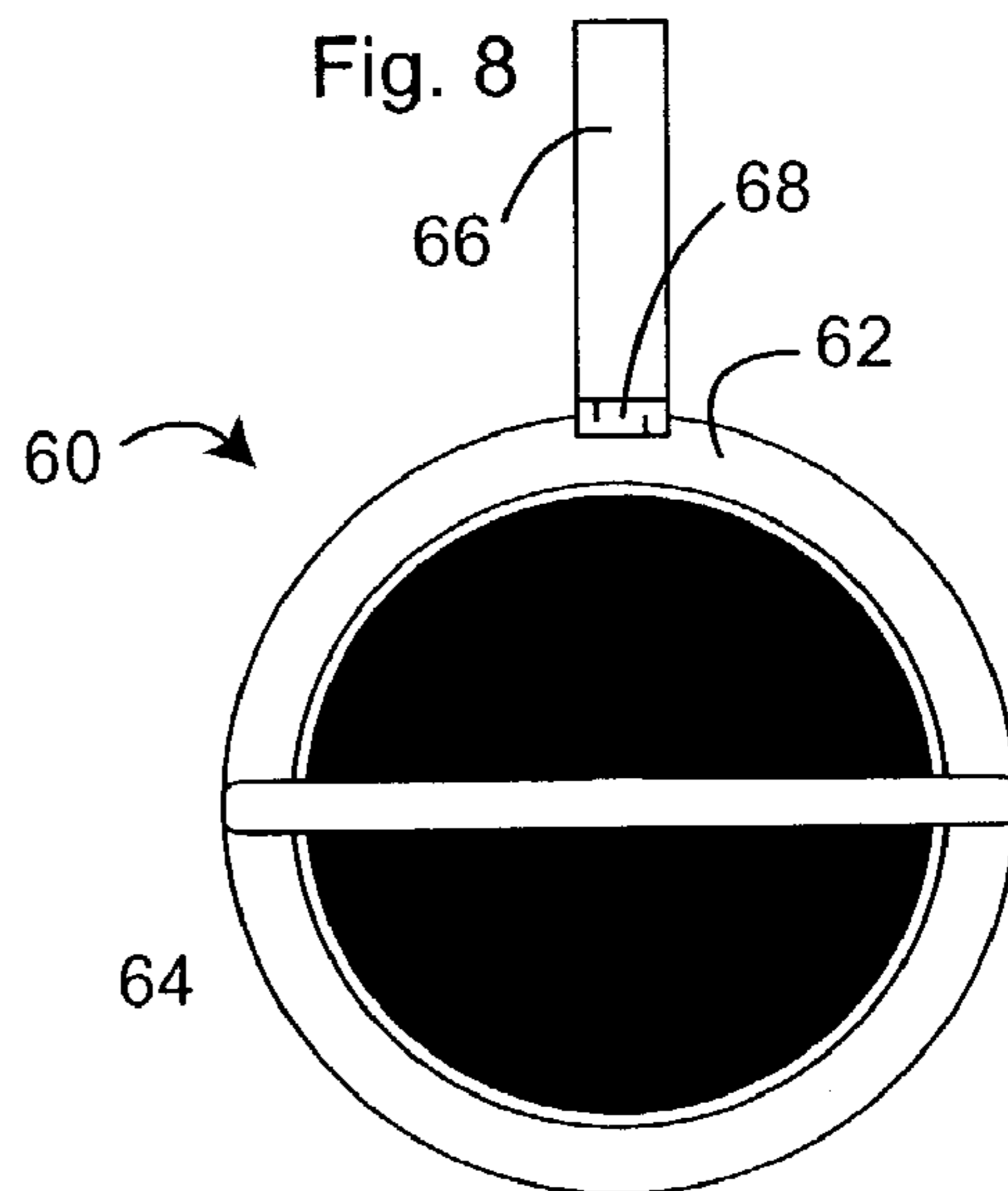


Fig. 9

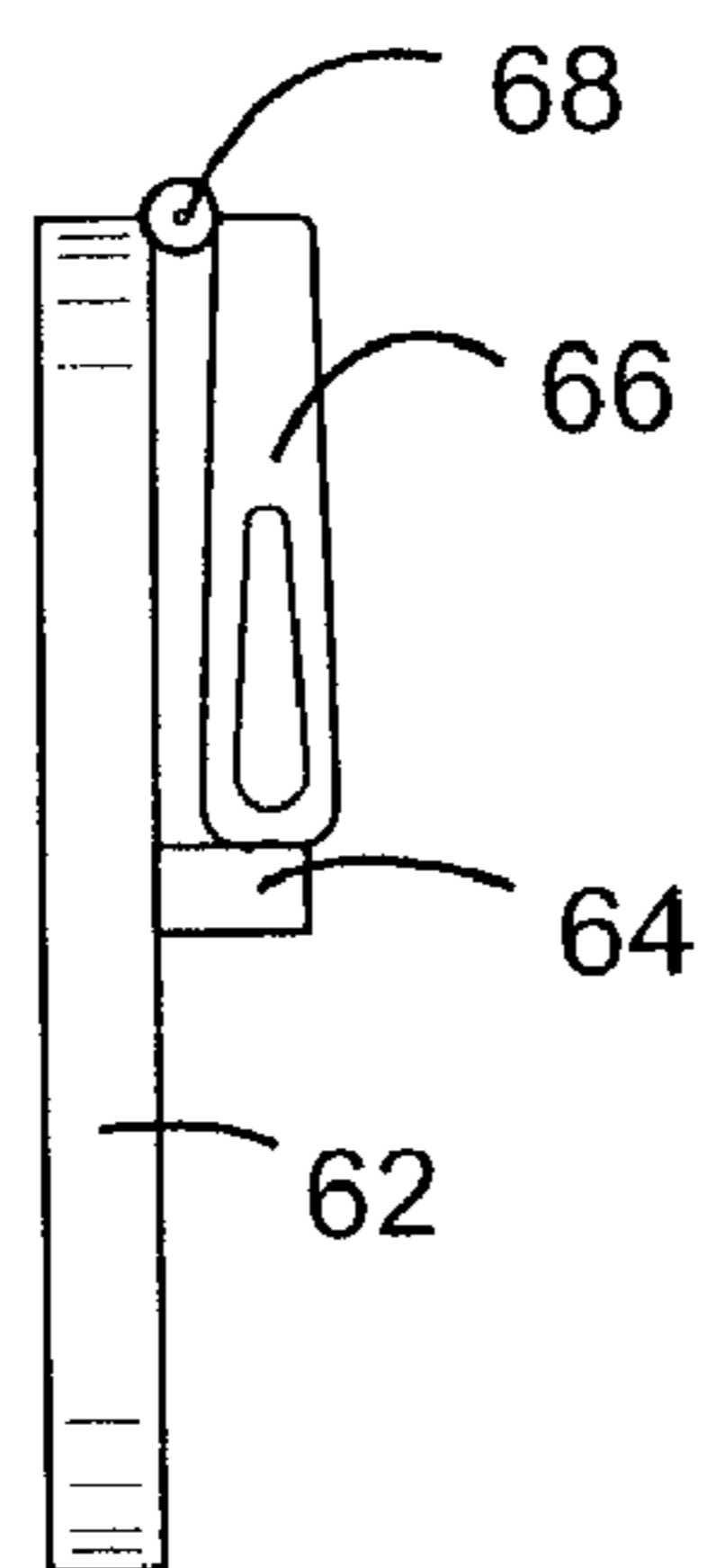
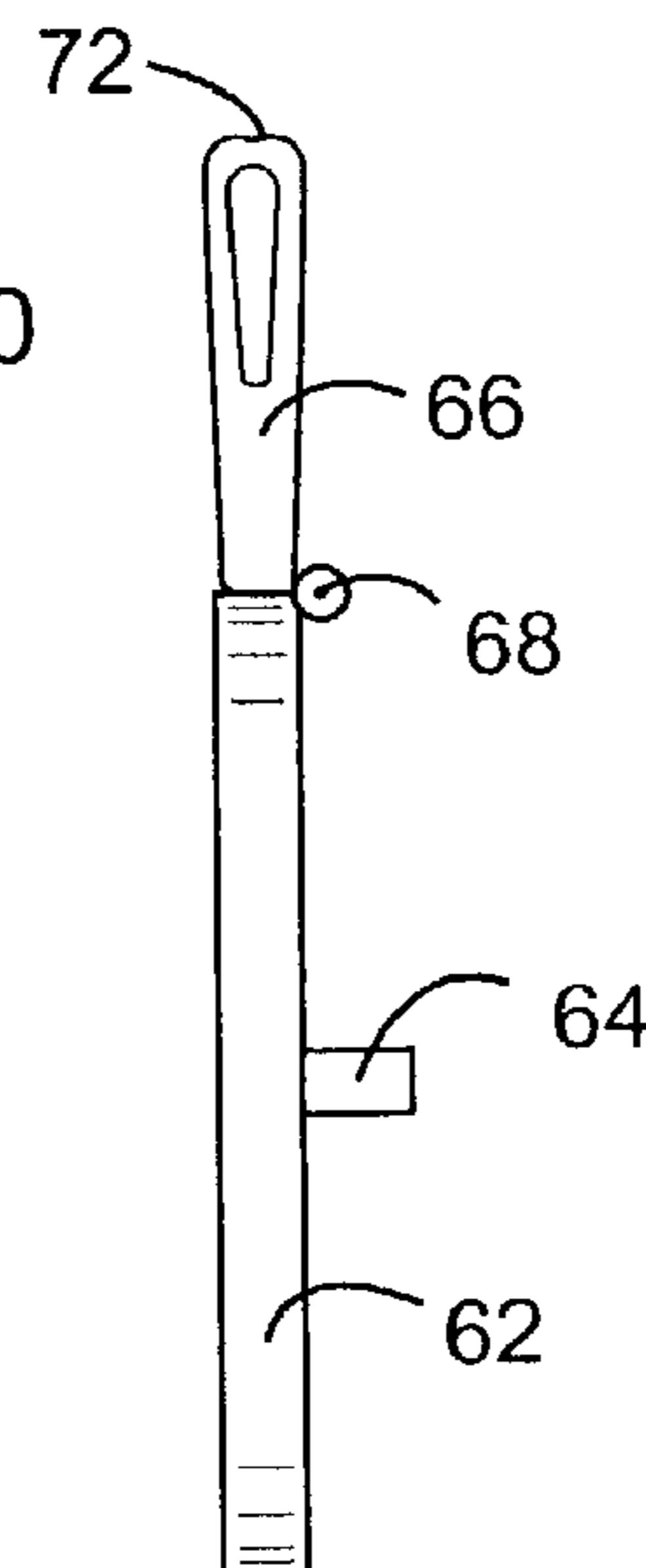


Fig. 10



1

BRACELET AND PENDANT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a combination bracelet and pendant, and in particular to a bracelet comprised of a wristband and removable ornament that can be used as a pendant.

(2) Description of the Prior Art

Combination bracelets with removable ornaments that can be used as a pendant are known in the prior art. Basically, such bracelets are comprised of a wristband with opposed ends that are adapted for releasable attachment to an ornament that includes a first means enabling attachment of the ornament to the ends of the wristband, and a second means enabling attachment of the ornament to a necklace, e.g., a chain or cord, to be worn about the user's neck, so that the ornament can serve as a pendant.

One combination bracelet and ornament is shown in U.S. Pat. No. 4,974,429 to Ferrara. The Ferrara bracelet is comprised of a resilient, oval-shaped wristband sized to encircle a user's wrist. The wristband has a rectangular opening in either end. The ornament has a lower or bottom surface that includes inwardly directed hooks on opposite sides of the ornament, with the hooks being sized for insertion into the openings in the end of the wristband. The lower surface of the ornament also includes a small loop adapted to receive a necklace so that the ornament can be worn as a pendant.

The bracelet is worn by placing the wristband about the user's wrist and compressing the resilient band to bring the ends of the wristband toward each other. One ornament hook is inserted into one wristband opening, and the other hook is inserted into the other wristband opening. When no longer compressed, the wristband flexes outwardly, holding the ornament in place on the wristband, so that the combination of wristband and ornament can be worn as a bracelet.

When the user desires to wear the ornament as a pendant, the ends of the wristband are compressed, and the hooks are detached from the openings in the wristband. The pendant is then removed, and a necklace is inserted through the small loop on the lower surface of the ornament, permitting the ornament to be worn as a pendant on the necklace.

While the Ferrara combination bracelet and pendant is useful in permitting the ornament, which can be the major cost of the bracelet, to also be used as a pendant, further improvements are needed. In particular, an improved means is needed to releasibly attach an ornament to a wristband, enabling the ornament to be more easily attached in a manner that will securely hold the ornament in place during use.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Generally, the bracelet of the invention is comprised of a wristband that has opposite ends, with a hook at either end of the wristband, and an ornament that can be detachably secured to the hooks. The hooks are preferably transverse to the plane of the wristband, and extend in opposite directions. The ornament has an upper or top decorative surface, and a lower or bottom surface that includes a first loop adapted to receive the wristband hooks. Preferably, the first loop is flattened and substantially parallel to the bottom surface of the ornament so that the bracelet can be worn comfortably.

A second loop is also attached to the ornament, preferably on the ornament bottom surface, so that the ornament can also be used as a pendant on a necklace. The second loop

2

opening is of a size sufficient to permit insertion of a necklace, e.g., a chain or cord, through the second loop. The second loop can be independent of the first loop, or one end of the second loop can be integral with or attached to the first loop. Alternatively, the second loop can have a proximal end that is attached by a hinge to an edge of the ornament, so that the second loop is moveable between a closed position parallel to the bottom surface of the ornament and an open position in which the second loop extends outwardly from the ornament body. The second loop may also include a distal end that includes a detent or groove, with the distal end being adapted to engage the first loop and releasibly lock the second loop in the closed position.

The decorative upper surface of the ornament can be of various aesthetically pleasing configurations, such as animals, artistic designs, etc. If desired, a stone or jewel can be fitted into the upper surface of the ornament. Preferably the second loop is positioned adjacent an edge of the bottom surface of the ornament. If the ornament is in the configuration of an animal with a head, the second loop may be placed beneath the animal's head, so that the ornament will be in an upright orientation when worn as a pendant.

The bracelet may be secured around the user's wrist by inserting the wristband around the wrist and compressing the band to move the hooks closer to each other. The hooks are then inserted through the first loop, and the compression on the band is released to hold the ornament in place. The band can again be compressed to remove the ornament, which can then be worn as a pendant on a chain.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a top view of a preferred embodiment of the bracelet with a removable ornament.

FIG. 2 is sectional bottom view of the bracelet of FIG. 1 with a portion of the wristband cut away for clarity.

FIG. 3 is a side view of the bracelet of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is an end view of the ornament of the bracelet of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a front view of the ornament from the bracelet of FIG. 1 used as a pendant on a necklace.

FIG. 6 is a sectional bottom view of another bracelet with a portion of the wristband cut away for clarity, showing an ornament in which the two loops are joined.

FIG. 7 is a side view of the bracelet of FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is a back view of another ornament suitable for use with the wristbands of FIG. 1 or 6, in which the loop used to attach the ornament of a necklace is hinged.

FIG. 9 is a side view of the ornament of FIG. 8 with the necklace attachment loop in the closed position.

FIG. 10 is a side view of the ornament of FIG. 8 with the necklace attachment loop in the open position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In the following description, terms such as horizontal, upright, vertical, above, below, beneath, and the like, are used solely for the purpose of clarity in illustrating the invention, and should not be taken as words of limitation. The drawings are for the purpose of illustrating the invention and are not intended to be to scale.

As illustrated in FIGS. 1-3, bracelet, generally 10, is comprised of a resilient wristband 12 sized to encircle a user's wrist, a first hook 14 attached to one end of band 12 and a second hook 16 attached to the opposite end of band 12. Hooks 14 and 16 are transverse to the plane of band 12

3

and extend in opposite directions. Each of hooks **14** and **16** preferably extends about a curvature of at least 180° to releasably secure ornament, generally **20**, in place.

As illustrated, ornament **20** is a sea turtle. It will be appreciated, however, that the ornamental features of ornament **20** can be of any shape and design desired, and that the sea turtle is merely representative. As best seen in FIG. **2**, in which a part of band **12** is cut away to facilitate viewing of the bottom surface of ornament **20**, ornament **20** includes an ornament body **22**, a first loop **24** extending across the bottom surface of ornament **20** between opposed edges of ornament body **22** for use in attaching hooks **14** and **16**. First loop **24** includes a generally flattened or planar central section **26** that is substantially parallel to the bottom surface of ornament body **22**, so that bracelet **10** can be worn comfortably, and end sections **28** and **30** joining central section **26** to the bottom surface of ornament body **22**.

Ornament **20** also includes a small second loop **32** adapted to attach ornament **20** to a necklace chain **34**, as shown in FIG. **5**. Second loop **32** is preferably positioned adjacent an edge of the bottom surface of ornament body **22**. Preferably, loop **32** is transverse to loop **24**, and lies along an axis approximately equidistant between end sections **28** and **30** of loop **24**. As shown in the embodiment illustrated, loop **32** is positioned beneath the head portion of the sea turtle, so that the sea turtle is worn in an upright position on chain **34**.

When worn, band **12** is inserted around the user's wrist, and is compressed to move hooks **12** and **14** toward each other. Hooks **12** and **14** are inserted through first loop **24**, and the compression on band **12** is released, moving hooks **12** and **14** away from each other due to the resilience of band **12**, thereby securely holding ornament **20** onto band **12**. When desired, band **12** can again be compressed to remove ornament **20**. Chain **34**, or another necklace, can then be inserted through loop **32** so that ornament **20** can be worn as a pendant.

It has been found that the present construction has several advantages over prior art combination bracelet and pendant constructions, e.g., the bracelet and pendant illustrated in the above Ferrara patent. The bracelet can be easily attached around the user's wrist and removed, whether the bracelet is worn on the right or left wrist. The ornament is held securely in place, even if the band is accidentally compressed while being worn, and the bracelet can be flexed at the junctures of the ornament and band without risking detachment of the ornament, thus promoting increased comfort.

In the alternative embodiment illustrated in FIGS. **6** and **7**, bracelet, generally **38**, includes ornament, generally **40**, attached to hooks **42** and **44** of wristband, generally **46**, by a first loop **48** extending across the bottom surface of ornament body **50**. First loop **48** includes a generally flattened or planar central section that is substantially parallel to the bottom surface of ornament body **50**. A second loop **52** adapted to attach ornament **40** to a necklace is preferably transverse to loop **48**, and includes a first end attached to an edge of ornament body **50** and a second end attached to loop **48** approximately equidistant between the ends of loop **48**.

FIGS. **8–10** illustrate another ornament, generally **60**, that includes an ornament body **62**, a first loop **64** used to attach ornament **60** to hooks of a wristband of the type illustrated in the preceding embodiments. Ornament **60** also includes a second or necklace attachment loop **66** joined adjacent an edge of ornament body **62** with hinge **68**. Loop **66** is rotatable on hinge **68** between a closed position as shown in FIG. **9** and an open position as shown in FIGS. **8** and **10**. A detent **70** on the distal end of loop **66** engages loop **64** when

4

loop **66** is in the closed position to releasably secure loop **66** in the closed position. Loop **66** is secured in the closed position when worn on a bracelet, and in the open position when worn on a necklace, which extends through opening **72** in loop **66**.

Certain modifications and improvements will occur to those skilled in the art upon a reading of the foregoing description. For example, the second loop on the ornament can be eliminated with the wristband and ornament being simply worn as a bracelet. It should be understood that all such modifications and improvements have been deleted herein for the sake of conciseness and readability but are properly within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A bracelet with a removable ornament comprising:

a) a resilient wristband having opposed first and second ends with a hook at each end, said hooks being transverse to the plane of said wristband and extending about a curvature of at least 180° with openings facing in opposite directions; and

b) an ornament having a bottom surface, and a first closed loop extending across said bottom surface adapted to receive the wristband hooks for releasable attachment of the ornament to the wristband, said loop including a central portion substantially parallel to said ornament bottom surface, and end portions connecting said central portion to said bottom surface, said hooks being insertable around said end portions to secure said ornament to said bracelet.

2. The bracelet of claim 1, wherein said ornament further includes a second loop to receive a necklace, said second loop being transverse to said first loop.

3. The bracelet of claim 2, wherein said second loop has an end attached to said first loop.

4. The bracelet of claim 2, wherein said second loop includes a proximal end hinged to said ornament.

5. A bracelet with a removable ornament useful as a necklace pendant comprising:

a) a resilient wristband having opposed first and second ends with a hook at each end, said hooks being transverse to the plane of said wristband and extending about a curvature of at least 180° with openings facing in opposite directions; and

b) an ornament having a bottom surface including a first closed loop extending across said bottom surface adapted to receive the wristband hooks for releasable attachment of the ornament to the wristband, and a second loop transverse to said first loop to receive a necklace, said first loop including a central portion substantially parallel to said ornament bottom surface and end portions connecting said central portion to said bottom surface, said hooks being insertable around said end portions to secure said ornament to said bracelet.

6. The bracelet of claim 5, wherein said second loop is positioned near an edge of said ornament.

7. The bracelet of claim 5, wherein said second loop has an end attached to said first loop.

8. The bracelet of claim 5, wherein said second loop includes a proximal end hinged to said ornament.

9. A jewelry system comprising:

a) a resilient wristband having opposed first and second ends with a hook at each end, said hooks being transverse to the plane of said wristband and extending about a curvature of at least 180° with openings facing in opposite directions;

b) an ornament having a bottom surface, a first closed loop extending across said bottom surface adapted to

5

receive the wristband hooks for releasable attachment of the ornament to the wristband, and a second loop transverse to said first loop to receive a necklace, said first loop including a central portion substantially parallel to said ornament bottom surface and end portions 5 connecting said central portion to said bottom surface, said hooks being insertable around said end portions to secure said ornament to said bracelet; and

c) a necklace insertable through said second loop.

10. A bracelet with a removable ornament useful as a necklace pendant comprising:

a) a resilient wristband having opposed first and second ends with a hook at each end, said hooks being transverse to the plane of said wristband and having openings extending in opposite directions; and

b) an ornament having opposed edges and a bottom surface, said ornament including a first loop with a central portion substantially parallel to said ornament bottom surface and end portions connecting said central portion to said bottom surface extending across said

6

bottom surface and adapted to receive the wristband hooks for releasable attachment of the ornament to the wristband, and a second loop to receive a necklace, said second loop being transverse to said first loop, said second loop is moveable between an open position and a closed position, said second loop including a distal end with a detent, said distal end being adapted to engage said first loop to releasably lock said second loop in said closed position.

11. The bracelet of claim **10**, wherein said second loop has an end attached to said first loop.

12. The bracelet of claim **10**, wherein said second loop includes a proximal end hinged adjacent an edge of said ornament, said second loop being moveable between a closed position and an open position.

13. The bracelet of claim **12**, wherein said second loop has a distal end engaging said first loop when said second loop is in the closed position.

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